

RECOGNIZING THE 13TH ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL HOCKEY CHALLENGE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 13th annual Congressional Hockey Challenge, a charity game played between our congressional Lawmakers hockey team and the Lobbyists, which has raised over \$1.2 million for charity since 2009. This year's matchup saw the Lawmakers pull out a hard-fought 8-3 win over the Lobbyists, continuing what is now a five-year winning streak.

This year's charities include the Fort Dupont Ice Hockey Club, the nation's oldest minority youth hockey program, founded by iconic U.S. Hall of Fame coach Neal Henderson; four chapters of the Warriors Hockey program, which are teams comprised of disabled American military veterans; and the Professional Women's Hockey Players' Association, an organization committed to the establishment of a professional women's hockey league in North America. Through its partnership with the National Hockey League, Ted Leonsis and the Washington Capitals, Jeremy Jacobs and the Boston Bruins, the Canadian American Business Council, and other key supporters, the annual congressional hockey game aims to ensure that the sport of hockey is accessible to all who wish to play.

In past years, the congressional hockey game has been supported by appearances from NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly, Hall of Famer Pat LaFontaine, Kevin Weekes, Anson Carter, Peter Bondra, Alan May, and Rod Langway, with play by play at times called by sportscaster Joe Beninati. Legendary Hall of Famer and Congressional Gold Medal recipient Willie O'Ree, who shattered hockey's racial barrier with our Boston Bruins in 1958, has been honored in the past and remains a familiar face of the annual game as an unrivaled ambassador to diversity and inclusion.

This year, our Lawmakers team was once again skillfully helmed by former University of Alaska-Fairbanks captain and my colleague TOM EMMER, along with congressional staff, administration officials, and anchored by Olympic women's hockey standouts Haley Skarupa, Megan Keller, and Hayley Scamurra.

Haley Skarupa, a dynamic and prolific scorer with a name peppered throughout both the NCAA and team record books from her time at our shared alma mater of Boston College, earned a gold medal as a forward during the 2018 Olympic Games in PyeongChang. Another standout BC Eagle, Megan Keller, long regarded as one of the best defensive players in the world, sports a gold medal from the 2018 Olympic campaign and a silver from 2022. And Hayley Scamurra, an elite two-way threat out of Northeastern University with a litany of All-Star, MVP, and Player of the Year awards, brought back home silver from Beijing in 2022. The commanding presence of these three Olympians made this year's game one to remember.

Knowing that events such as these are never easy to organize, it's also important to acknowledge that this year's game was once again supported through the foundational ef-

forts of Nick Lewis, Michelle MacGregor, Tim Regan, Kevin Coroneos, and many others who have selflessly volunteered their time and effort toward the game's sustained success year after year.

Mr. Speaker, it is with this in mind that I once again congratulate all the supporters and participants in this year's Congressional Hockey Challenge and recognize the inspired work of these charities. The Fort Dupont Cannons' devotion to equity in the youth community, the Warriors' provision of opportunity for our veterans, and the PWHPA's commitment to broaden the horizon for female athletes, truly helps to both demonstrate and ensure that hockey is for everyone.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF CORPORAL ROBERT MAHON

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Corporal Robert Mahon of Kansas. Corporal Mahon spent 30 years exemplifying the motto of the United States Marine Corps—Semper Fidelis, or "Always Faithful" in his service to the Third District as a member of the Leawood Police Department and the United States as a Marine.

After graduating high school in Placerville, California, Corporal Mahon joined the United States Marine Corps in October of 1993. Corporal Mahon proudly served four years in the Marines as an anti-tank missile gunner, or "TOW." At his honorable discharge in 1997, his years of leadership and hard work allowed him to rise to the rank of corporal.

Following his discharge, Corporal Mahon moved to Kansas City and began working with the Johnson County Sheriff's Office. On July 19, 1999, Corporal Mahon began his 24-year service to Leawood Police Department. During these years, Corporal Mahon spent much of his time on patrol in addition to a 4 year stint in the traffic unit as a motorcycle officer. He continued to lead as a firearms instructor, armorer, and less-lethal projectile instructor for nearly 15 years.

Corporal Mahon's leadership did not end there. He worked to educate and inspire others as a police marksman, a police cyclist, an active shooter instructor, an original member of the department's honor guard, and was the first Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) drone pilot in the department. His outstanding performance was rewarded with a promotion to the supervisory ranks of the department, and he was named a patrol corporal on May 11, 2019.

Corporal Mahon received the Metro Chiefs and Sheriffs Association Bronze Award for Valor, two Leawood Police Department Life-saving Awards, and the Leawood Police Department's Medal of Valor in 2022. In addition to his career achievements, Corporal Mahon is a devoted husband and father to his wife Vicki, and their children, Garrett, Alyssa, and Julia.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and congratulating Corporal Mahon on his three decades of service and his distinguished career. I thank Corporal Mahon for his leadership and valor and wish him the peaceful and prosperous retirement that he deserves.

RECOGNIZING CFMA AWARD WINNERS—KYRA COKER

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kyra Coker of National Roofing Partners. Kyra is a pioneer in the intricate, multidimensional industry of construction management. She is an esteemed awardee for Construction Financial Professional of the Year from the Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA).

CFMA is a figurehead in the construction industry by virtue of its support for financial managers through networking, educational, and informational services. CFMA grants more opportunities and resources to empower advanced, innovative development of infrastructure in the prosperous district of TX-24. Kyra goes above and beyond by fostering innovative perspectives, judicious contributions, and collaboration within her company and community. She has been acknowledged as a prominent leader and mentor to her company. Kyra's remarkable professionalism and sense of community have allowed her company to thrive.

Congratulations to Kyra on earning this high recognition for all her impressive work.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN ALEXANDER GRAY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a community leader, political activist, talented writer, and dedicated entrepreneur. Kevin Alexander Gray transitioned from this life on March 7, 2023, in Columbia, South Carolina. He was a not-so-gentle giant in the community who tirelessly advocated for improving the lives of those in need, and his presence will be sorely missed.

Kevin Gray was born on July 1, 1957, in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He was raised with his four siblings, by his parents who owned the Spartanburg establishment, "Gray's Groceries". From an early age, Kevin found his voice as a fearless advocate for civil rights and took to political organizing. In 1988, Kevin served as the South Carolina Coordinator for Reverend Jesse Jackson's Presidential campaign. He also worked diligently on the Presidential campaign of Tom Harkin in 1992 and Tom Clements' United States Senate campaign in 2010.

In addition to organizing both state and national political campaigns, Kevin was also a skilled writer. He worked as an editor for Black News of Columbia, South Carolina and as a writer and editor for other African American newspapers across the state. He went on to write, *Waiting for Lightning to Strike: The Fundamentals of Black Politics*, and edit *Killing Trayvons*, among other pieces on activism and the fight for equality.

Kevin understood the connection between good political discussions and good food, and he opened the well-loved Barbeque restaurant

"Railroad BBQ" on Hampton Street, in the shadows of Benedict College and Allen University. The restaurant is adorned with political posters and created a space for enjoying fulfilling food and conversation. Despite opening at the early onset of COVID, it quickly became a cornerstone of the community.

Throughout his life, Kevin was a highly involved member of the community, offering support to families who had lost loved ones to poverty, violence, drug use, or were imprisoned. In formal civic roles he served as head of the Rainbow Coalition, a civil rights organization originally founded by Rev. Jackson and led protests against apartheid in South Africa. He also served eight terms as President of the South Carolina American Civil Liberties Union, and for four years on the national board of the American Civil Liberties Union. He was a key voice in advocating for the removal of the confederate flag from the dome of the South Carolina State House.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring the inspiring life of Kevin Gray. Throughout his life, he remained steadfast in his dedication to his state and furthering the opportunities of all who lived there. His commitment to public service touched the lives of all who knew him, and he will remain cemented in the bedrock of Columbia, South Carolina forever.

HONORING THE LIVES OF CORPORAL BENJAMIN COOPER AND OFFICER JAKE REED

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of Corporal Benjamin Lee Cooper and Officer Jake Alexander Reed, who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives in the line of duty to the Joplin community.

Cpl. Cooper served his country as part of the U.S. Army for eight years and was stationed in Alaska and Hawaii during his service. Following his service in the military, he started a 19-year career in law enforcement beginning with the Joplin Police Department in 2003. He then served as a Sheriff's Deputy in Colorado, before ultimately returning to Joplin. Cpl. Cooper was an avid bowhunter, fisherman, and family man. He is survived by his wife and 2 daughters.

Officer Reed graduated with Honors from MSSU and became a Joplin Police Officer upon graduation. Officer Reed served with the Joplin Police Department for five years. He loved gaming, mountain biking, golfing, and spending time with his family and friends. Officer Reed's commitment to service continues as he spread the gift of life to several recipients as a vital organ donor. He is survived by his wife.

Both lives gone too soon, both lives we must remember forever. Their service to Joplin has left a lasting impact on our community and we owe them an eternal debt of gratitude.

On behalf of Southwest Missouri, I join the Joplin community today in honoring their lives, memory, and lasting impact they will forever have on our community.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT MAJOR JASON M. CANTU

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Sergeant Major Jason M. Cantu, who is retiring after 30 years of service to the United States Marine Corps.

Sergeant Major Cantu enlisted in the Marine Corps in December of 1992 and completed his recruit training in September of 1993. Following his training at the School of Infantry, he was assigned as an infantry machine gunner.

Throughout his 30 years of service, Sergeant Major Cantu has been deployed all over the world. In his early years as a Marine, he worked in Cuba to help Haitian and Cuban migrant's humanitarian missions as well as being deployed to South America and West Africa as a part of an air/ground task force and training float.

He was later reassigned Bravo Company 1st Battalion 2nd Marine Regiment where he was a machinegun section leader and deployed to the Mediterranean Sea as part of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. During this tour, he was promoted to the rank of Corporal, then Sergeant. After a brief stint with the Weapons Training Battalion in Quantico, VA, he returned to the 1st Battalion 2nd Marine Regiment in September 2000. While with the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment Sergeant Major Cantu, then a Sergeant, served as a section leader for the Combined Anti Armor Team. A year later, the battalion deployed to Okinawa, then Guam, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Then, in January 2003, the battalion deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After serving as a Drill Instructor School at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA, Cantu was assigned to the U.S. Naval Mission in Bogota, Colombia. After a stint in Colombia, and then Chile as a Marine Corps representative to the Chilean Marine Corps, Cantu was promoted to First Sergeant in September of 2008. He was deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom 9.1 as the Counterintelligence/Human Intelligence Company First Sergeant.

Sergeant Major Cantu rose to his current rank in May 2013 and currently serves as the Squadron Sergeant Major for a Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron.

Sergeant Major Cantu's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with V and three gold stars, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two gold stars and the Combat Action Ribbon.

He is the son of a 21-year career Marine and a brother to 7 siblings, 6 of whom also served in the United States Marine Corps and the United States Navy and are comprised of non-commissioned and commissioned officers.

Our country owes the men and women of the United States military an enormous debt of gratitude, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sergeant Major Cantu. It is service men like him that safeguard our liberties and allow the people of this great nation to live under a blanket of freedom.

On behalf of the people of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, we appreciate his outstanding leadership and unwavering com-

mitment to his country. It is my honor to congratulate Sergeant Major Cantu on a job well done.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MASTER TROOPER JAMES BAILEY

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Indiana State Master Trooper James R. Bailey, who was killed in the line of duty last Friday, March 3.

A native of Auburn, Indiana, Bailey was a decorated, nearly 16-year veteran of the Indiana State Police force who was named Trooper of the Year for District 12 in 2012 and earned the combat "Action Award" in 2021.

But Bailey's spiritedness and sense of duty wasn't confined to his squad car. In 2010, Bailey was off-duty and leaving lunch from a restaurant with his wife when an 87-year-old man collapsed in the parking lot. He and his wife Amy, a nurse, rendered CPR and saved the man's life. Three times, he was diagnosed with cancer. Three times, he beat it. "I'm pretty stubborn," Bailey said. "You have two options. One is to go into a corner and pout. The second is to fight and be stubborn." That's who James Bailey was: A public servant dedicated to the last, and a warrior whose triumphs he insisted be understated.

In response to being called a hero, Trooper Bailey demurred, "It's what we do, it's what we are trained to do, and that's why we get into this profession." But I want to be very clear, especially to his children, Joseph and Sophia: Their dad was a hero. That is how he will be remembered.

We will never forget his service and sacrifice to Northeast Indiana. God bless the Bailey family and God bless all law enforcement officers who risk their lives every day to keep our families and communities safe.

RECOGNIZING CFMA AWARD WINNERS—TIMOTHY HESS

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Timothy Hess of Azteca-Omega Group. Timothy is a champion in the multi-dimensional, elaborate industry of construction management. He is a distinguished awardee for Executive of the Year from the Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA).

CFMA is a figurehead in the construction industry by virtue of its support for financial managers through networking, educational, and informational services. CFMA grants more opportunities and resources to empower advanced, innovative development of infrastructure in the prosperous district of TX-24. Timothy has made a significant impact on his company, industry, and colleagues in North Texas. He has been recognized by CFMA as a leader within the community that empowers